

## Dugongs in northern Australia

Dugongs live in the shallow coastal waters of northern Australia and feed on seagrass meadows. They are capable of travelling hundreds of kilometres in a few days in search for food and mating, though some dugongs don't travel far at all.

## We need more information

There is still a lot to learn about dugongs. Land and Sea Managers and Indigenous communities need more information so they can effectively care for their habitats and manage pressures on dugongs.

## Culturally important

Dugongs have great cultural value to northern Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and high conservation significance.

## Working together as a team

First Nations peoples and scientists are working together on this project and their findings will support Indigenous-led monitoring across northern Australia.

# Improving dugong research with partnerships + new technologies



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

Biodiversity and  
Conservation Science



## Can new technologies help?

New technologies present a great opportunity to collect much-needed scientific data efficiently and at low cost. This project is developing and testing their suitability for dugong research.

- Drone and plane-based aerial photography
- Artificial intelligence to count dugongs in aerial photos
- Size and body measurements using photos
- Genetics to assess population mixing and movements
- Processes to align old and new survey methods



Scan the QR code and visit the NESP Marine and Coastal Hub website for more information or email [christophe.cleguer@jcu.edu.au](mailto:christophe.cleguer@jcu.edu.au)



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